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(54) **COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE MEDIA DELIVERY**

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See application file for complete search history.

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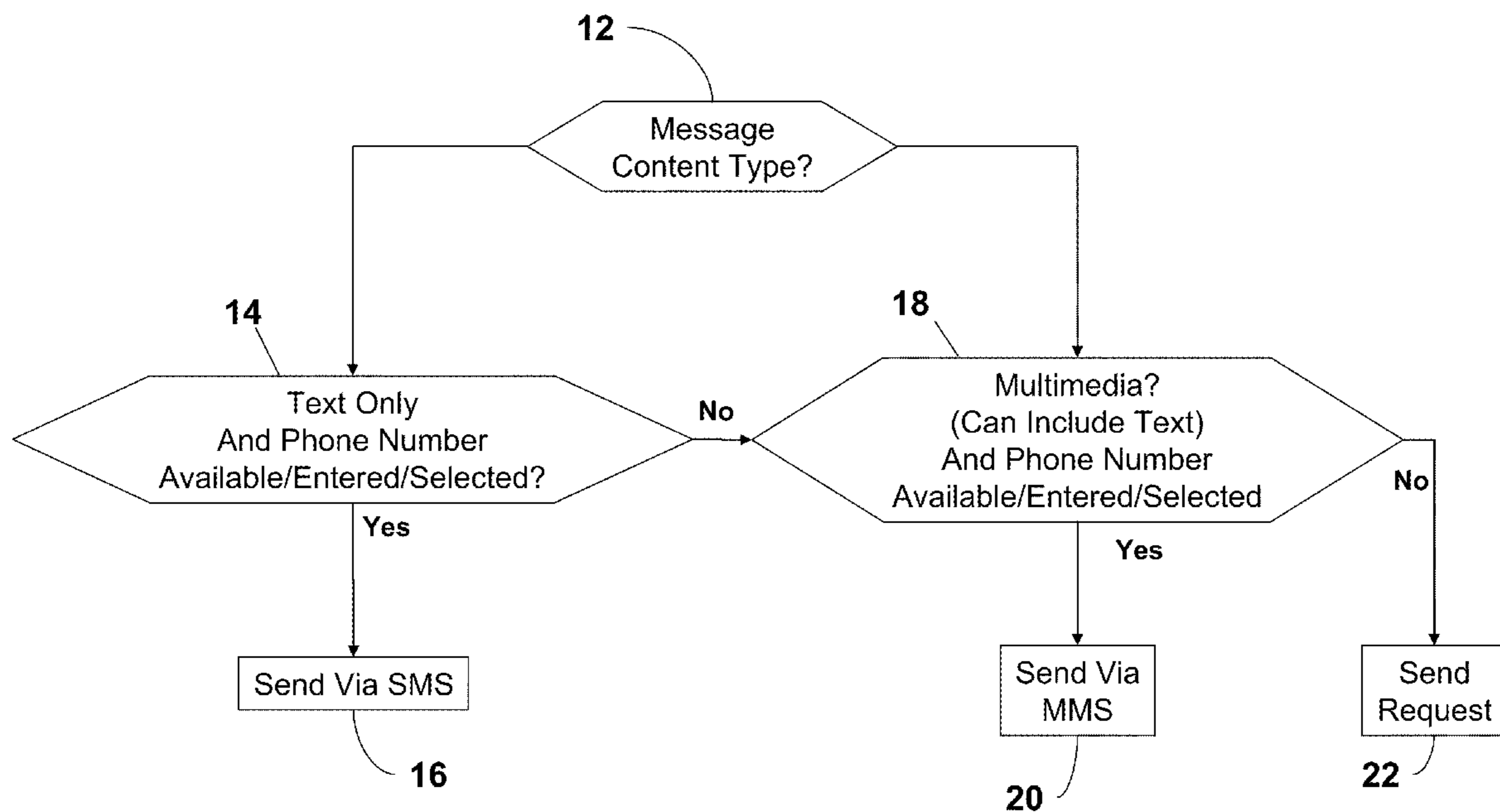
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A communications device determines the appropriate method for providing a message depending upon the content of the message without prompting or querying a user of the device. When the user select a name as the recipient of the created message, the mobile device determines delivery options. If the message contains text only and if the user enters/selects a mobile device phone number, the message is sent via SMS. If the message contains multimedia and if the user enters or selects a mobile device phone number, the message is sent via MMS. If the message is text only or multimedia, and if the user enters or selects an email address, the message is sent via email. In various implementations, the message is delivery via determined delivery options including a lowest cost delivery option, a subscriber preferred delivery option, or a delivery options as indicated by an intended recipient's presence information.

14 Claims, 6 Drawing Sheets



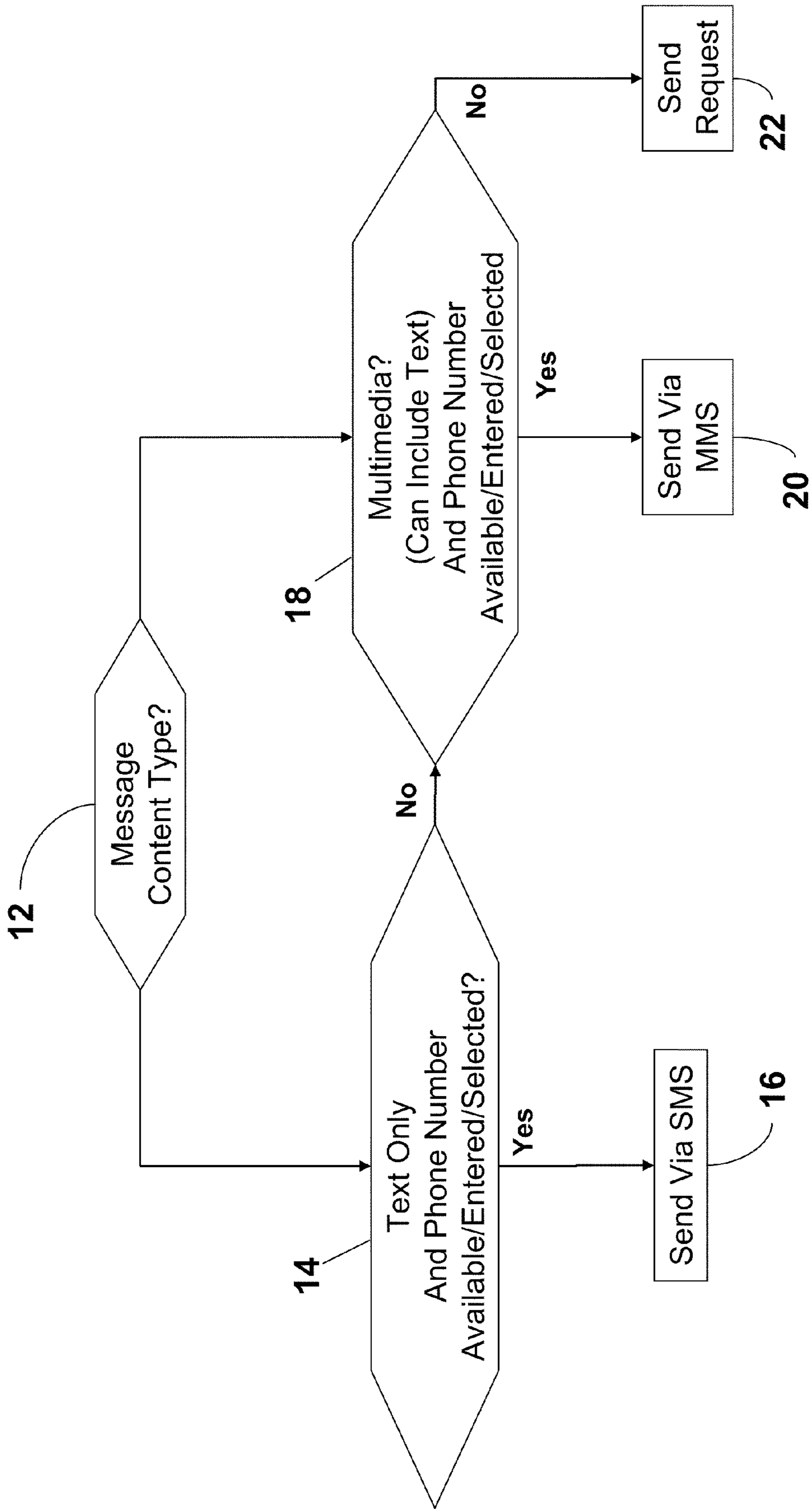


FIGURE 1

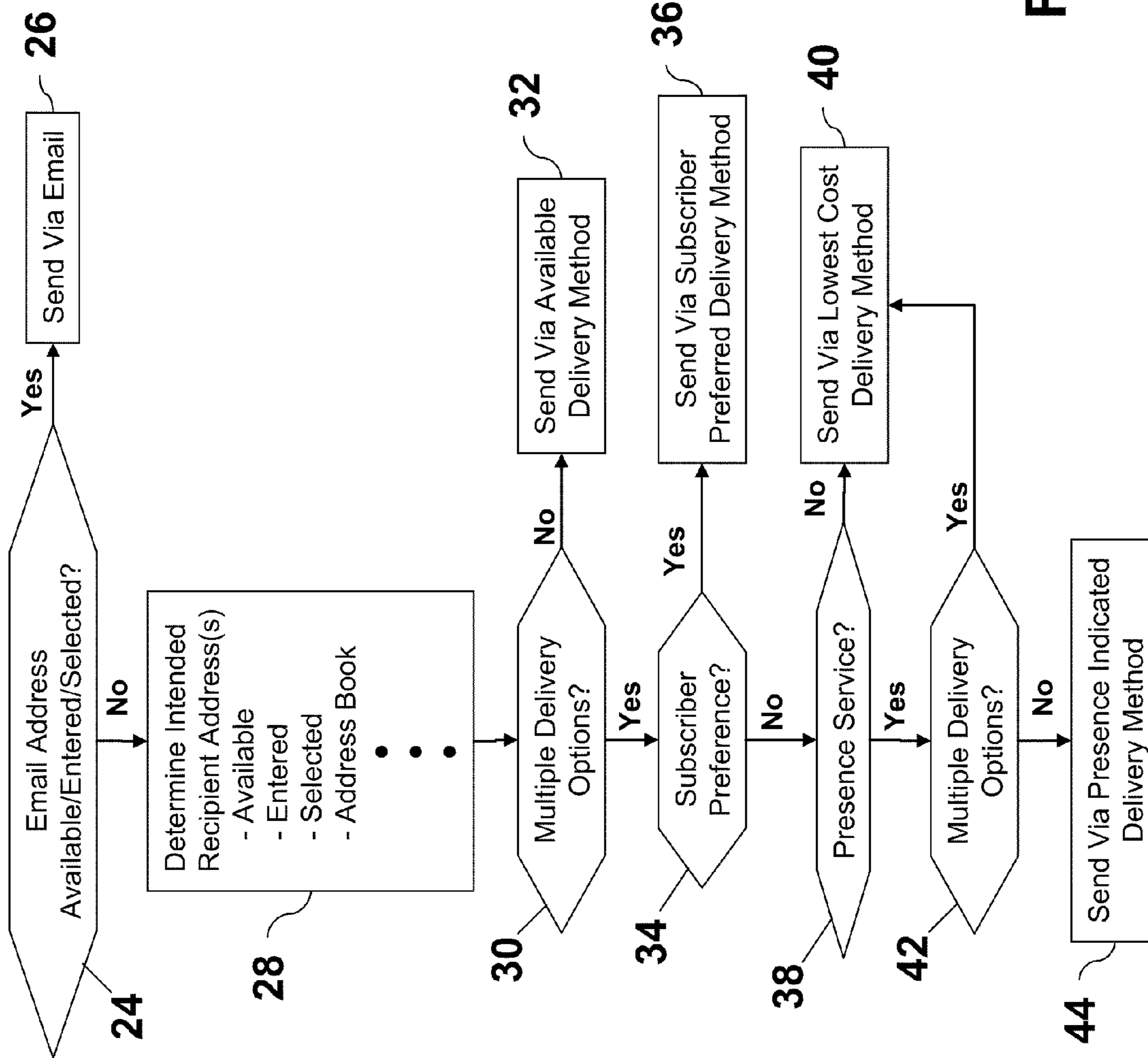


FIGURE 2

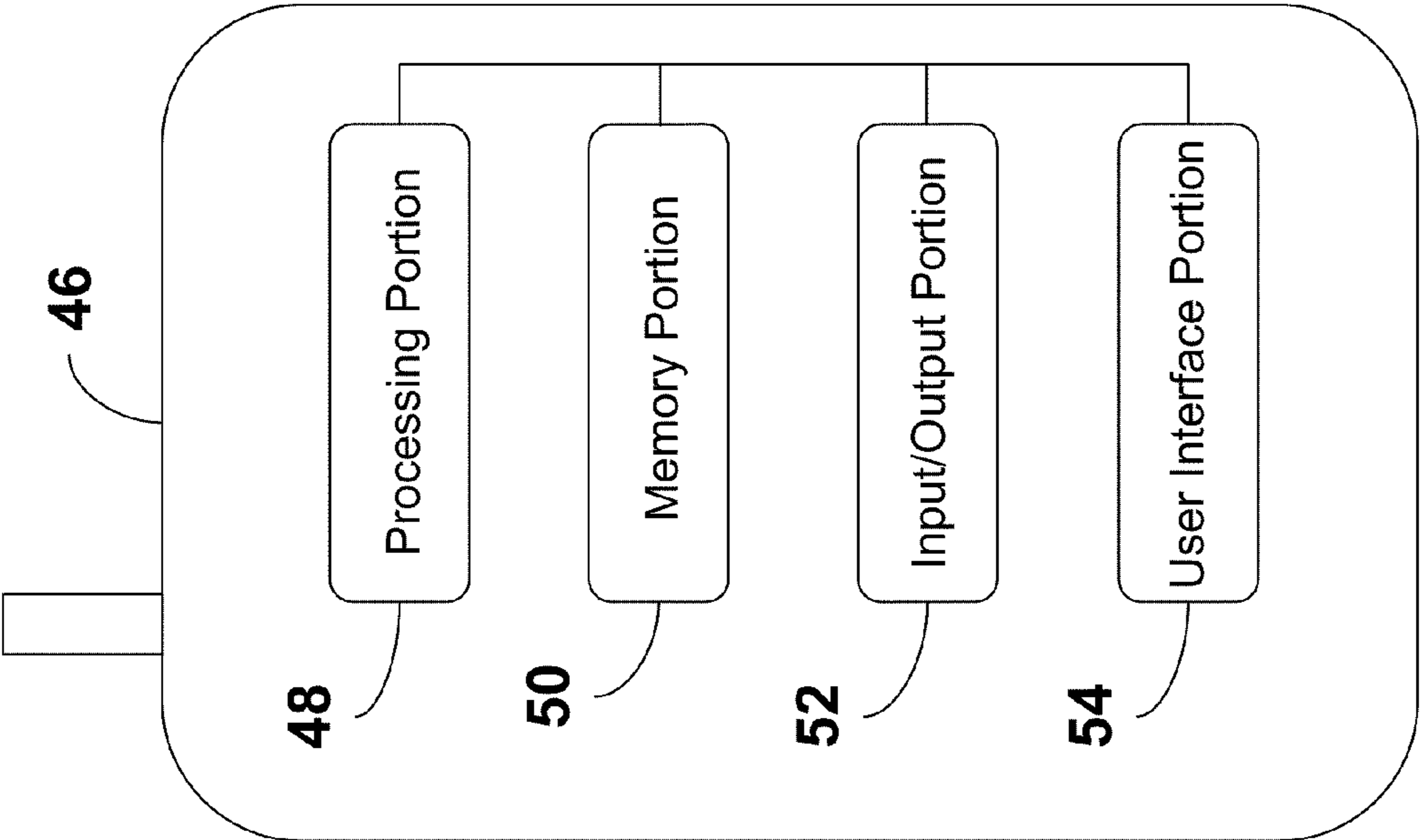


FIGURE 3

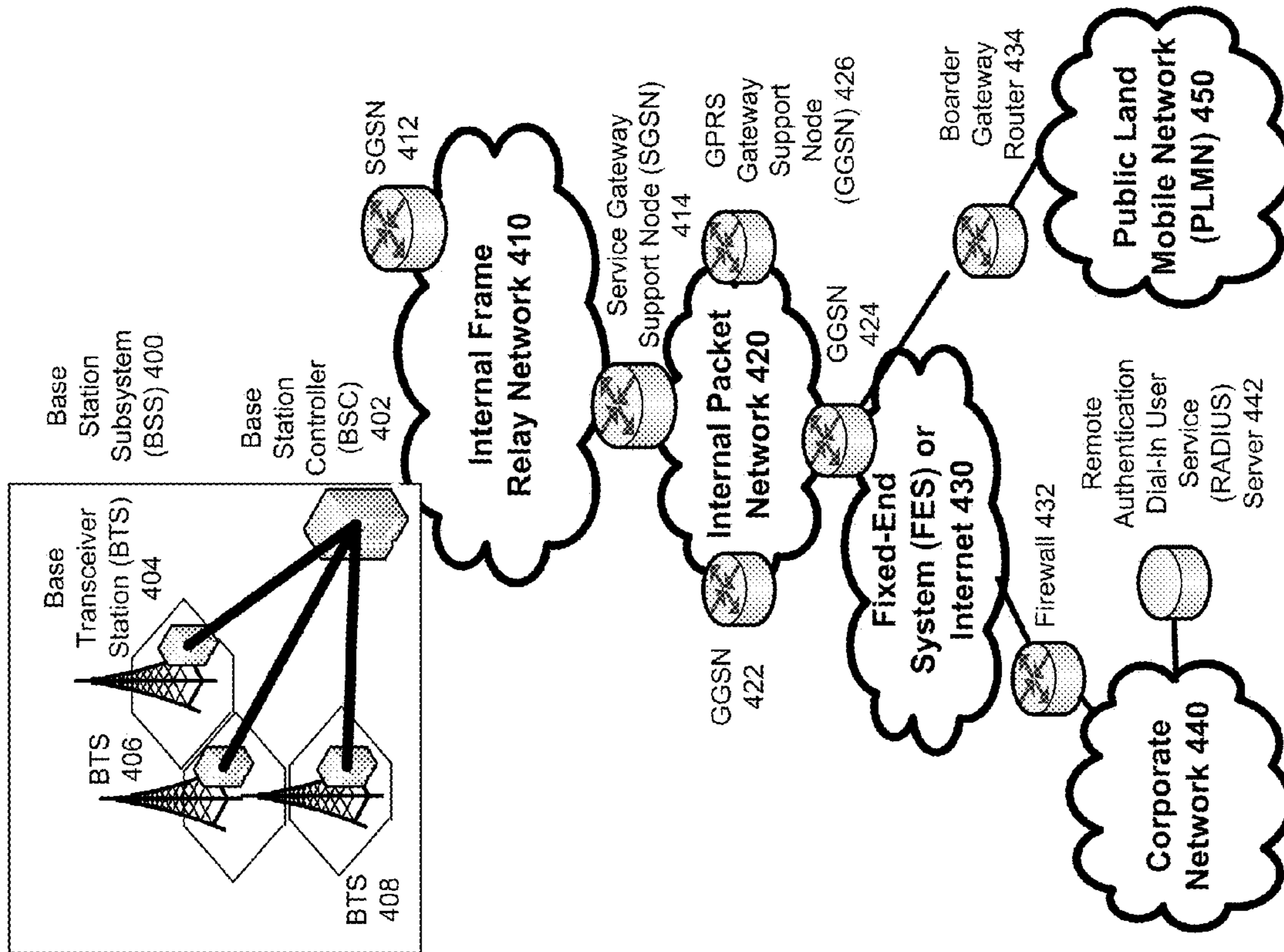


FIGURE 4

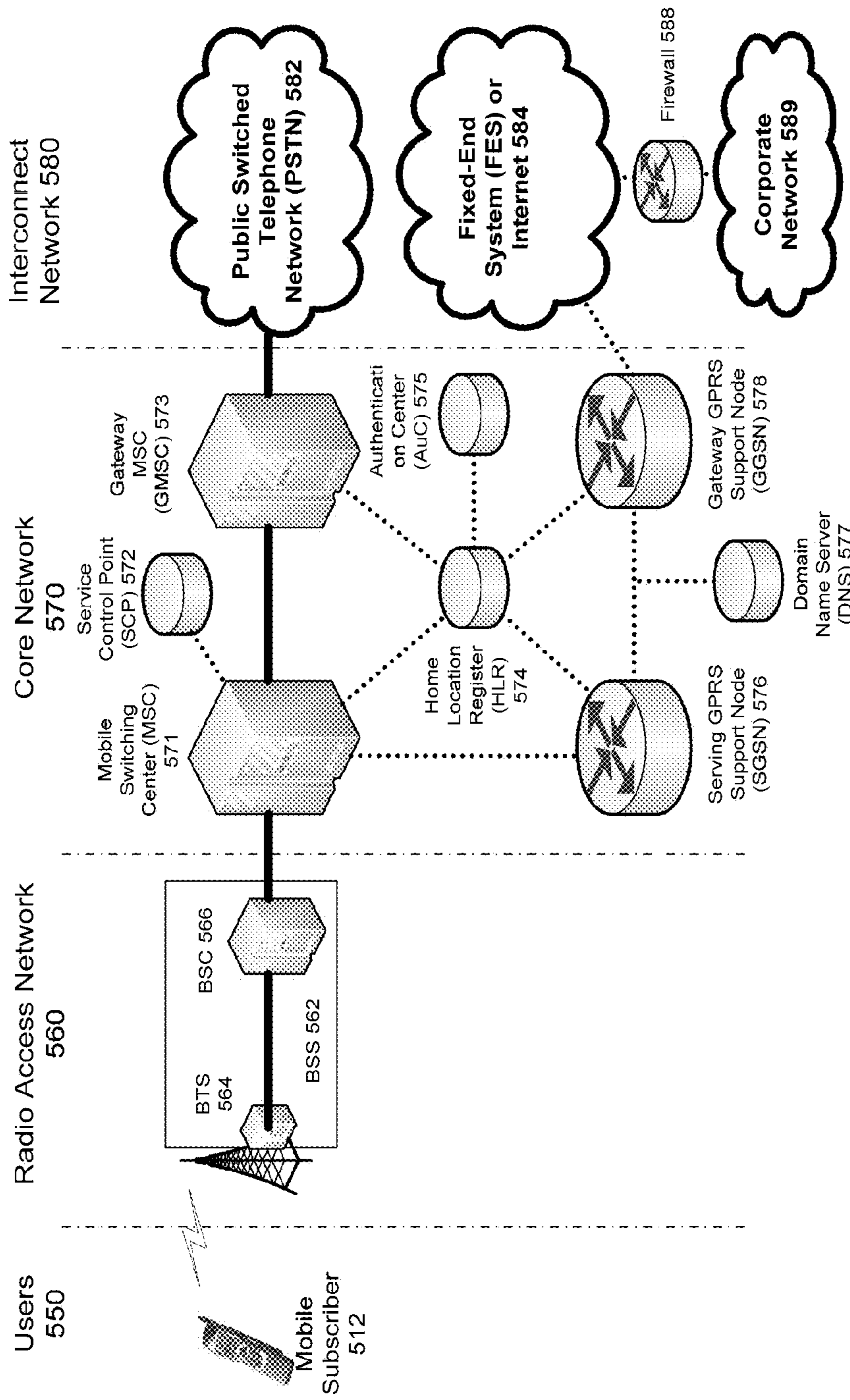


FIGURE 5

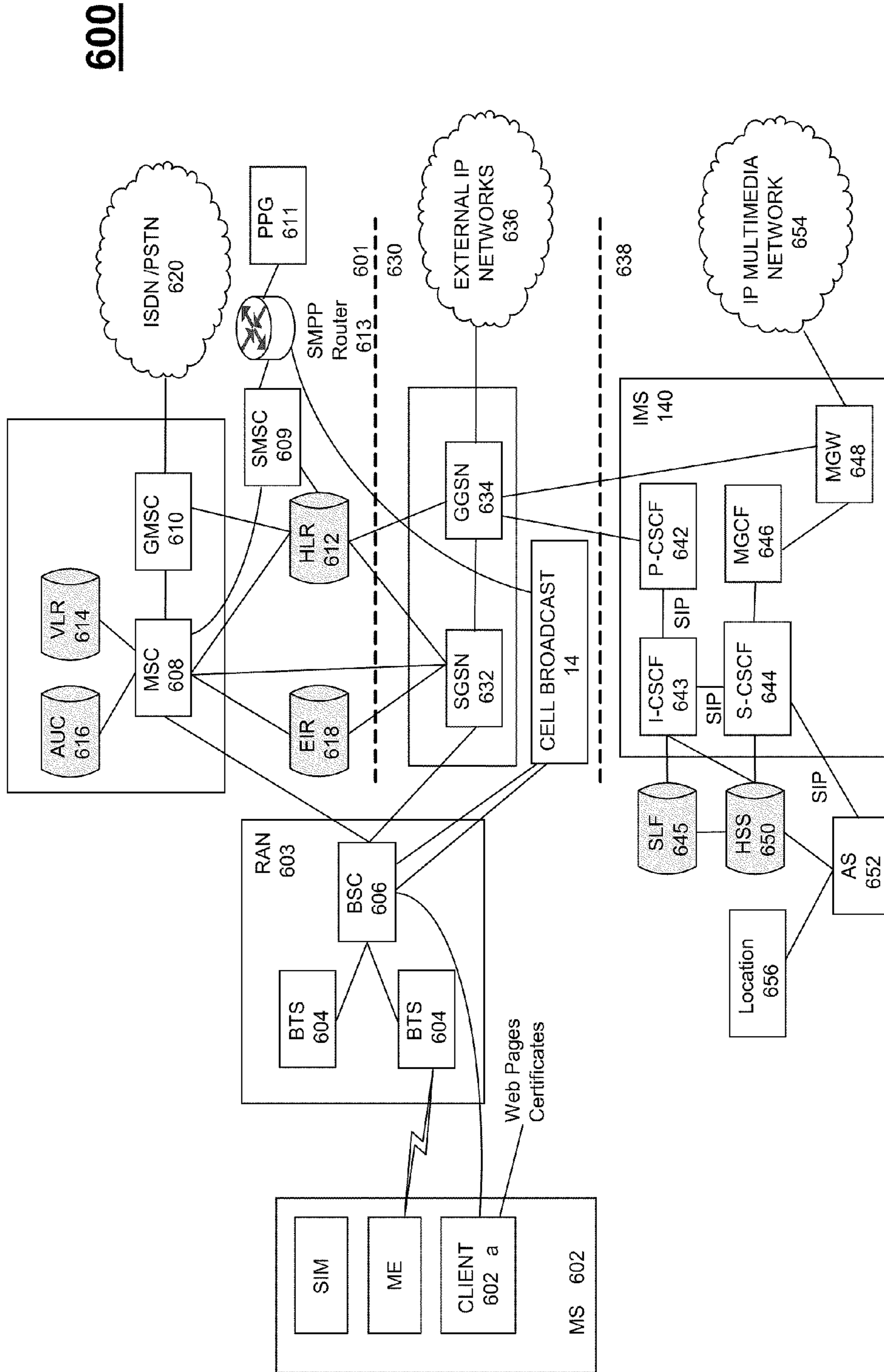


FIGURE 6

1

COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE MEDIA
DELIVERY

BACKGROUND

Current implementations and standards for the support of multimedia on mobile devices is complex. For example, a typical mobile device prompts a user with a query asking if the user wants to send a message via SMS, MMS, or email. This requires the user to have knowledge of and understand the various types of multimedia delivery methods (e.g., SMS, MMS, email), the differences between the various types of multimedia delivery methods, and how to use the various types of multimedia delivery methods.

SUMMARY

A communications device determines the appropriate method for providing a message depending upon the content of the message. The communications device determines the content type, automatically, without providing a prompt to, or querying a user of the communications device, unless the content type is undeterminable. For example, if the message contains text only and if the user enters a phone number or selects a phone number from an address book, the message is sent via SMS. If the message contains multimedia (e.g., video, a picture) and if the user enters a phone number or selects a phone number from the address book, the message is sent via MMS. If the message is text only or multimedia (with or without text), and if the user enters an email address (e.g., name@domain.xxx) or selects an email address from the address book, the message is sent via email.

In an example embodiment, if there are multiple delivery options, the lowest cost option is selected. For example, a text message could be sent via SMS to the recipient cell phone number of 555-580-1234 or could be sent as an email message to 5555801234@txt.att.net. Both addresses will deliver the text message to the same mobile device of the intended recipient. However, it is possible that one method could be more expensive. In an example embodiment, if there are multiple delivery options and the subscriber has indicated a preference for message delivery (either for this subscriber or for all messages), the message is delivered via the subscriber preferred delivery method, thus possibly overriding the lowest cost option.

Thus, in an example scenario, when a subscriber selects an intended recipient of a message, the mobile device finds the intended recipient in the internal address book of the device (or at any appropriate location). Based upon the media type of the message (e.g., text only, text and multimedia attachment, etc.), based upon cost factors (e.g., unlimited SMS messaging plan, international roaming charges), based upon network presence information for the intended recipient, and based upon subscriber preferences in the address book, the mobile device automatically selects the appropriate delivery method.

In another example embodiment, if the intended recipient's contact information in the subscriber's address book contains multiple email addresses (e.g., email address of PC, email address of mobile device), and the subscriber has not indicated which address is preferred and if there is a presence service available, the message is delivered in accordance with the presence information as follows. If presence is indicated only on the mobile device, the message is delivered to the mobile device email address. If presence is indicated only on the PC, the message is delivered to the PC email address. If presence is indicated on both the mobile device and the PC,

2

the message can be delivered to either the mobile device email address or the PC email address, or the message can be sent to a default email address.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1 is a flow diagram depicting an example process for providing media via a mobile communications device.

FIG. 2 is another flow diagram depicting an example process for providing media via a mobile communications device.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example mobile wireless communications device configured to provide media.

FIG. 4 depicts a block diagram of an exemplary packet-based mobile cellular network environment, such as a GPRS network, in which media can be provided via a communications device.

FIG. 5 illustrates an architecture of a typical GPRS network in which media can be provided via a communications device.

FIG. 6 illustrates an exemplary block diagram view of a GSM/GPRS/IP multimedia network architecture within which media can be provided via a communications device.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF ILLUSTRATIVE
EMBODIMENTS

FIG. 1 is a flow diagram depicting an example process for providing media via a mobile communications device. The content type of a message to be sent via a mobile communications device is determined at step 12. If the content type is text only (step 14) and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, the message is sent via the Short Message Service (SMS) at step 16. If the content type is multimedia (step 18), which can include text, and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, the message is sent via the Multimedia Message Service (MMS) at step 20. Multimedia, as depicted herein includes any content type other than text only. Thus multimedia can include an image, audio, video, or any combination thereof, or text in any combination with an image, audio, video. Text can include plain text and rich text. If, at step 18, it is determined that the message content does not include multimedia, the mobile communications device provides a request, at step 22, for the content type to be utilized. The request, in an example embodiment, comprises a query on a display of the mobile communications device asking for a delivery method content type. In various embodiments, the user can select from a menu of content types or enter a content type.

FIG. 2 is another flow diagram depicting an example process for providing media via a mobile communications device. At step 24, it is determined if an email address of the intended recipient is available or has been entered or selected via the mobile communications device. If an email address is available or has been entered or selected, the message is provided via email at step 26. If an email address is not available or has not been entered or selected, the address, or addresses, of the intended recipient is determined at step 28. The address can include any appropriate address, such as a phone number, URL or the like. The address can be obtained by the user entering an address or selecting an address. The address can be obtained from an address book by the user, automatically by the mobile communications device, or a combination thereof.

At step 30 it is determined if multiple delivery options for providing the message to the intended recipient are available. For example, a text message could be sent via SMS to the

recipient cell phone number (e.g., 555-580-1234) or could be sent as an SMS message via a gateway to an email message to an email address (e.g., 5555801234@txt.att.net). Both addresses will deliver the text message as an SMS message to the same mobile device of the intended recipient. If multiple delivery options are not available (step 30), the message is provided via the available delivery method at step 32.

If multiple delivery options are available (step 30), it is determined, at step 34, if the subscriber associated with the mobile communications device has a preferred delivery method. For example, the subscriber could enter a default preferred method to send the message to a phone number. If, at step 34, it is determined that the subscriber has a preference, the message is provided, at step 36, via the preferred delivery method.

If, at step 34, it is determined that the subscriber does not have a preference, it is determined, at step 38, if a presence service is available. As known, a presence service provides an indication of the ability and/or willingness of the intended recipient to communicate. If it is determined, at step 38, that no presence service is available, the message is sent via that lowest cost delivery method at step 40. The lowest cost delivery method can be determined in any appropriate manner. For example, the user/subscriber can enter the lowest cost delivery method or the mobile communications device can determine the lowest cost delivery method in accordance with the subscribers profile, current rates, etc.

If it is determined, at step 38, that presence service is available, it is determined, at step 42, if multiple delivery options are available. For example, the intended recipient may have a mobile communications device and a PC via which the intended recipient can receive messages. Thus, the presence service could indicate presence (the intended recipient is willing/able to communicate) for the intended recipient's mobile device, PC, or both (e.g., multiple delivery options). If it is determined, at step 42, that multiple delivery options are not available, the message is delivered in accordance with the presence indicated delivery method. That is, for example, if presence indicates the intended recipient's mobile device, the message is sent to the intended recipient's mobile device, or if presence indicates the intended recipient's PC, the message is sent to the intended recipient's PC.

If it is determined, at step 42, that multiple delivery options are available (e.g., presence indicated on both the intended recipient's mobile device and the intended recipient's PC), the message is delivered via that lowest cost delivery method at step 40.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of an example mobile communications device 46 configured to provide media. In an example configuration, the mobile communications device 46 is a wireless device. The mobile communications device 46 can comprise any appropriate device, examples of which include a portable computing device, such as a laptop, a personal digital assistant ("PDA"), a portable phone (e.g., a cell phone or the like, a smart phone, a video phone), a portable email device, a portable gaming device, a TV, a DVD player, portable media player, (e.g., a portable music player, such as an MP3 player, a walkmans, etc.), a portable navigation device (e.g., GPS compatible device, A-GPS compatible device, etc.), or a combination thereof. The mobile communications device 46 can include devices that are not typically thought of as portable, such as, for example, a public computing device, a navigation device installed in-vehicle, a set top box, or the like. The mobile communications device 46 can include non-conventional computing devices, such as, for example, a kitchen appliance, a motor vehicle control (e.g., steering wheel), etc., or the like.

The mobile communications device 46 can include any appropriate device, mechanism, software, and/or hardware for providing media as described herein. In an example configuration, the mobile communications device 46 comprises a processing portion 48, a memory portion 50, an input/output portion 52, and a user interface (UI) portion 54. It is emphasized that the block diagram depiction of mobile communications device 46 is exemplary and not intended to imply a specific implementation and/or configuration. For example, in an example configuration, the mobile communications device 46 comprises a cellular phone and the processing portion 48 and/or the memory portion 50 are implemented, in part or in total, on a subscriber identity module (SIM) of the mobile communications device 46. In another example configuration, the mobile communications device 46 comprises a laptop computer. The laptop computer can include a SIM, and various portions of the processing portion 48 and/or the memory portion 50 can be implemented on the SIM, on the laptop other than the SIM, or any combination thereof.

The processing portion 48, memory portion 50, and input/output portion 52 are coupled together to allow communications therebetween. In various embodiments, the input/output portion 52 comprises a receiver of the mobile communications device 46, a transmitter of the mobile communications device 46, or a combination thereof. The input/output portion 52 is capable of receiving and/or providing information pertaining to providing media as described above. For example, the input/output portion 52 is capable of receiving and/or sending SMS content, MMS content, audio content, multimedia content, plain text content, rich text content, email messages, or any combination thereof, as described herein. The input/output portion 52 also is capable of, for example, sending content to a destination phone number, via email, to a URL, or any combination thereof. In an example embodiment, the input/output portion 52 is capable of receiving information to determine a location of the mobile communications device 46. In an example configuration, the input/output portion 52 comprises a GPS receiver. In various configurations, the input/output portion 52 can receive and/or provide information via any appropriate means, such as, for example, optical means (e.g., infrared), electromagnetic means (e.g., RF, WI-FI, BLUETOOTH, ZIGBEE, etc.), acoustic means (e.g., speaker, microphone, ultrasonic receiver, ultrasonic transmitter), or a combination thereof.

The processing portion 48 is capable of performing functions pertaining to providing media as described above. For example, the processing portion 48 is capable of determining message content, such as plain text, rich text, text only, multimedia, SMS, MMS, or the like, as described above. Also, for example, the processing portion 48 is capable of determining if an email address is available or has been entered or selected, determining an intended recipient's address, determining if multiple delivery options are available, determining a subscriber preference, determining if presence service is available, determining presence indications, or a combination thereof, as described herein.

In a basic configuration, the mobile communications device 46 can include at least one memory portion 50. The memory portion 50 can store any information utilized in conjunction with providing media as described above. For example, the memory portion 50 is capable of storing information pertaining to content type, an address book, an email address, a telephone number, intended recipient addresses, message delivery options, subscriber preferences, presence service, presence indications, or a combination thereof, as described above. Depending upon the exact configuration and type of processor, the memory portion 50 can be volatile

5

(such as some types of RAM), non-volatile (such as ROM, flash memory, etc.), or a combination thereof. The mobile communications device **46** can include additional storage (e.g., removable storage and/or non-removable storage) including, but not limited to, tape, flash memory, smart cards, CD-ROM, digital versatile disks (DVD) or other optical storage, magnetic cassettes, magnetic tape, magnetic disk storage or other magnetic storage devices, universal serial bus (USB) compatible memory, or any other medium which can be used to store information and which can be accessed by the mobile communications device **46**.

The mobile communications device **46** also can contain a UI portion **54** allowing a user to communicate with the mobile communications device **46**. The UI portion **54** can provide the ability to control the mobile communications device **46**, via, for example, buttons, soft keys, voice actuated controls, a touch screen, movement of the mobile communications device **46**, visual cues (e.g., moving a hand in front of a camera on the mobile communications device **46**), or the like. The UI portion **54** can provide visual information (e.g., via a display), audio information (e.g., via speaker), mechanically (e.g., via a vibrating mechanism), or a combination thereof. In various configurations, the UI portion **54** can comprise a display, a touch screen, a keyboard, an accelerometer, a motion detector, a speaker, a microphone, a camera, a tilt sensor, or any combination thereof. The UI portion **54** can comprise means for inputting biometric information, such as, for example, fingerprint information, retinal information, voice information, and/or facial characteristic information.

FIG. 4 depicts an overall block diagram of an exemplary packet-based mobile cellular network environment, such as a GPRS network, in which media can be provided via a communications device as described herein. In the exemplary packet-based mobile cellular network environment shown in FIG. 4, there are a plurality of Base Station Subsystems (“BSS”) **400** (only one is shown), each of which comprises a Base Station Controller (“BSC”) **402** serving a plurality of Base Transceiver Stations (“BTS”) such as BTSs **404**, **406**, and **408**. BTSs **404**, **406**, **408**, etc. are the access points where users of packet-based mobile devices become connected to the wireless network. In exemplary fashion, the packet traffic originating from user devices is transported via an over-the-air interface to a BTS **408**, and from the BTS **408** to the BSC **402**. Base station subsystems, such as BSS **400**, are a part of internal frame relay network **410** that can include Service GPRS Support Nodes (“SGSN”) such as SGSN **412** and **414**. Each SGSN is connected to an internal packet network **420** through which a SGSN **412**, **414**, etc. can route data packets to and from a plurality of gateway GPRS support nodes (GGSN) **422**, **424**, **426**, etc. As illustrated, SGSN **414** and GGSNs **422**, **424**, and **426** are part of internal packet network **420**. Gateway GPRS serving nodes **422**, **424** and **426** mainly provide an interface to external Internet Protocol (“IP”) networks such as Public Land Mobile Network (“PLMN”) **450**, corporate intranets **440**, or Fixed-End System (“FES”) or the public Internet **430**. As illustrated, subscriber corporate network **440** may be connected to GGSN **424** via firewall **432**; and PLMN **450** is connected to GGSN **424** via boarder gateway router **434**. The Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service (“RADIUS”) server **442** may be used for caller authentication when a user of a mobile cellular device calls corporate network **440**.

Generally, there can be a several cell sizes in a GSM network, referred to as macro, micro, pico, femto and umbrella cells. The coverage area of each cell is different in different environments. Macro cells can be regarded as cells in which the base station antenna is installed in a mast or a building

6

above average roof top level. Micro cells are cells whose antenna height is under average roof top level. Micro-cells are typically used in urban areas. Pico cells are small cells having a diameter of a few dozen meters. Pico cells are used mainly indoors. Femto cells have the same size as pico cells, but a smaller transport capacity. Femto cells are used indoors, in residential, or small business environments. On the other hand, umbrella cells are used to cover shadowed regions of smaller cells and fill in gaps in coverage between those cells.

FIG. 5 illustrates an architecture of a typical GPRS network in which media can be provided via a communications device as described herein. The architecture depicted in FIG. 5 is segmented into four groups: users **550**, radio access network **560**, core network **570**, and interconnect network **580**. Users **550** comprise a plurality of end users. Note, device **512** is referred to as a mobile subscriber in the description of network shown in FIG. 5. In an example embodiment, the device depicted as mobile subscriber **512** comprises a mobile device (e.g., mobile wireless communications device **46**). Radio access network **560** comprises a plurality of base station subsystems such as BSSs **562**, which include BTSs **564** and BSCs **566**. Core network **570** comprises a host of various network elements. As illustrated in FIG. 5, core network **570** may comprise Mobile Switching Center (“MSC”) **571**, Service Control Point (“SCP”) **572**, gateway MSC **573**, SGSN **576**, Home Location Register (“HLR”) **574**, Authentication Center (“AuC”) **575**, Domain Name Server (“DNS”) **577**, and GGSN **578**. Interconnect network **580** also comprises a host of various networks and other network elements. As illustrated in FIG. 5, interconnect network **580** comprises Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”) **582**, Fixed-End System (“FES”) or Internet **584**, firewall **588**, and Corporate Network **589**.

A mobile switching center can be connected to a large number of base station controllers. At MSC **571**, for instance, depending on the type of traffic, the traffic may be separated in that voice may be sent to Public Switched Telephone Network (“PSTN”) **582** through Gateway MSC (“GMSC”) **573**, and/or data may be sent to SGSN **576**, which then sends the data traffic to GGSN **578** for further forwarding.

When MSC **571** receives call traffic, for example, from BSC **566**, it sends a query to a database hosted by SCP **572**. The SCP **572** processes the request and issues a response to MSC **571** so that it may continue call processing as appropriate.

The HLR **574** is a centralized database for users to register to the GPRS network. HLR **574** stores static information about the subscribers such as the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (“IMSI”), subscribed services, and a key for authenticating the subscriber. HLR **574** also stores dynamic subscriber information such as the current location of the mobile subscriber. Associated with HLR **574** is AuC **575**. AuC **575** is a database that contains the algorithms for authenticating subscribers and includes the associated keys for encryption to safeguard the user input for authentication.

In the following, depending on context, the term “mobile subscriber” sometimes refers to the end user and sometimes to the actual portable device, such as a mobile device (e.g., mobile wireless communications device **46**), used by an end user of the mobile cellular service. When a mobile subscriber turns on his or her mobile device, the mobile device goes through an attach process by which the mobile device attaches to an SGSN of the GPRS network. In FIG. 5, when mobile subscriber **512** initiates the attach process by turning on the network capabilities of the mobile device, an attach request is sent by mobile subscriber **512** to SGSN **576**. The SGSN **576** queries another SGSN, to which mobile sub-

scriber **512** was attached before, for the identity of mobile subscriber **512**. Upon receiving the identity of mobile subscriber **512** from the other SGSN, SGSN **576** requests more information from mobile subscriber **512**. This information is used to authenticate mobile subscriber **512** to SGSN **576** by HLR **574**. Once verified, SGSN **576** sends a location update to HLR **574** indicating the change of location to a new SGSN, in this case SGSN **576**. HLR **574** notifies the old SGSN, to which mobile subscriber **512** was attached before, to cancel the location process for mobile subscriber **512**. HLR **574** then notifies SGSN **576** that the location update has been performed. At this time, SGSN **576** sends an Attach Accept message to mobile subscriber **512**, which in turn sends an Attach Complete message to SGSN **576**.

After attaching itself with the network, mobile subscriber **512** then goes through the authentication process. In the authentication process, SGSN **576** sends the authentication information to HLR **574**, which sends information back to SGSN **576** based on the user profile that was part of the user's initial setup. The SGSN **576** then sends a request for authentication and ciphering to mobile subscriber **512**. The mobile subscriber **512** uses an algorithm to send the user identification (ID) and password to SGSN **576**. The SGSN **576** uses the same algorithm and compares the result. If a match occurs, SGSN **576** authenticates mobile subscriber **512**.

Next, the mobile subscriber **512** establishes a user session with the destination network, corporate network **589**, by going through a Packet Data Protocol ("PDP") activation process. Briefly, in the process, mobile subscriber **512** requests access to the Access Point Name ("APN"), for example, UPS.com, and SGSN **576** receives the activation request from mobile subscriber **512**. SGSN **576** then initiates a Domain Name Service ("DNS") query to learn which GGSN node has access to the UPS.com APN. The DNS query is sent to the DNS server within the core network **570**, such as DNS **577**, which is provisioned to map to one or more GGSN nodes in the core network **570**. Based on the APN, the mapped GGSN **578** can access the requested corporate network **589**. The SGSN **576** then sends to GGSN **578** a Create Packet Data Protocol ("PDP") Context Request message that contains necessary information. The GGSN **578** sends a Create PDP Context Response message to SGSN **576**, which then sends an Activate PDP Context Accept message to mobile subscriber **512**.

Once activated, data packets of the call made by mobile subscriber **512** can then go through radio access network **560**, core network **570**, and interconnect network **580**, in a particular fixed-end system or Internet **584** and firewall **588**, to reach corporate network **589**.

FIG. **6** illustrates an exemplary block diagram view of a GSM/GPRS/IP multimedia network architecture **600** within which media can be provided via a communications device as described herein. As illustrated, architecture **600** of FIG. **6** includes a GSM core network **601**, a GPRS network **630** and an IP multimedia network **638**. The GSM core network **601** includes a Mobile Station (MS) **602**, at least one Base Transceiver Station (BTS) **604** and a Base Station Controller (BSC) **606**. The MS **602** is physical equipment or Mobile Equipment (ME), such as a mobile phone or a laptop computer that is used by mobile subscribers, with a Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) or a Universal Integrated Circuit Card (UICC). The SIM or UICC includes an International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), which is a unique identifier of a subscriber. The BTS **604** is physical equipment, such as a radio tower, that enables a radio interface to communicate with the MS. Each BTS may serve more than one MS. The BSC **606** manages radio resources, including the BTS. The BSC may be

connected to several BTSs. The BSC and BTS components, in combination, are generally referred to as a base station (BSS) or radio access network (RAN) **603**.

The GSM core network **601** also includes a Mobile Switching Center (MSC) **608**, a Gateway Mobile Switching Center (GMSC) **610**, a Home Location Register (HLR) **612**, Visitor Location Register (VLR) **614**, an Authentication Center (AuC) **618**, and an Equipment Identity Register (EIR) **616**. The MSC **608** performs a switching function for the network. The MSC also performs other functions, such as registration, authentication, location updating, handovers, and call routing. The GMSC **610** provides a gateway between the GSM network and other networks, such as an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) or Public Switched Telephone Networks (PSTNs) **620**. Thus, the GMSC **610** provides interworking functionality with external networks.

The HLR **612** is a database that contains administrative information regarding each subscriber registered in a corresponding GSM network. The HLR **612** also contains the current location of each MS. The VLR **614** is a database that contains selected administrative information from the HLR **612**. The VLR contains information necessary for call control and provision of subscribed services for each MS currently located in a geographical area controlled by the VLR. The HLR **612** and the VLR **614**, together with the MSC **608**, provide the call routing and roaming capabilities of GSM. The AuC **616** provides the parameters needed for authentication and encryption functions. Such parameters allow verification of a subscriber's identity. The EIR **618** stores security-sensitive information about the mobile equipment.

A Short Message Service Center (SMSC) **609** allows one-to-one Short Message Service (SMS) messages to be sent to/from the MS **602**. A Push Proxy Gateway (PPG) **611** is used to "push" (i.e., send without a synchronous request) content to the MS **602**. The PPG **611** acts as a proxy between wired and wireless networks to facilitate pushing of data to the MS **602**. A Short Message Peer to Peer (SMPP) protocol router **613** is provided to convert SMS-based SMPP messages to cell broadcast messages. SMPP is a protocol for exchanging SMS messages between SMS peer entities such as short message service centers. The SMPP protocol is often used to allow third parties, e.g., content suppliers such as news organizations, to submit bulk messages.

To gain access to GSM services, such as speech, data, and short message service (SMS), the MS first registers with the network to indicate its current location by performing a location update and IMSI attach procedure. The MS **602** sends a location update including its current location information to the MSC/VLR, via the BTS **604** and the BSC **606**. The location information is then sent to the MS's HLR. The HLR is updated with the location information received from the MSC/VLR. The location update also is performed when the MS moves to a new location area. Typically, the location update is periodically performed to update the database as location updating events occur.

The GPRS network **630** is logically implemented on the GSM core network architecture by introducing two packet-switching network nodes, a serving GPRS support node (SGSN) **632**, a cell broadcast and a Gateway GPRS support node (GGSN) **634**. The SGSN **632** is at the same hierarchical level as the MSC **608** in the GSM network. The SGSN controls the connection between the GPRS network and the MS **602**. The SGSN also keeps track of individual MS's locations and security functions and access controls.

A Cell Broadcast Center (CBC) **14** communicates cell broadcast messages that are typically delivered to multiple users in a specified area. Cell Broadcast is one-to-many geo-

graphically focused service. It enables messages to be communicated to multiple mobile phone customers who are located within a given part of its network coverage area at the time the message is broadcast.

The GGSN **634** provides a gateway between the GPRS network and a public packet network (PDN) or other IP networks **636**. That is, the GGSN provides interworking functionality with external networks, and sets up a logical link to the MS through the SGSN. When packet-switched data leaves the GPRS network, it is transferred to an external TCP-IP network **636**, such as an X.25 network or the Internet. In order to access GPRS services, the MS first attaches itself to the GPRS network by performing an attach procedure. The MS then activates a packet data protocol (PDP) context, thus activating a packet communication session between the MS, the SGSN, and the GGSN.

In a GSM/GPRS network, GPRS services and GSM services can be used in parallel. The MS can operate in one of three classes: class A, class B, and class C. A class A MS can attach to the network for both GPRS services and GSM services simultaneously. A class A MS also supports simultaneous operation of GPRS services and GSM services. For example, class A mobiles can receive GSM voice/data/SMS calls and GPRS data calls at the same time.

A class B MS can attach to the network for both GPRS services and GSM services simultaneously. However, a class B MS does not support simultaneous operation of the GPRS services and GSM services. That is, a class B MS can only use one of the two services at a given time.

A class C MS can attach for only one of the GPRS services and GSM services at a time. Simultaneous attachment and operation of GPRS services and GSM services is not possible with a class C MS.

A GPRS network **630** can be designed to operate in three network operation modes (NOM1, NOM2 and NOM3). A network operation mode of a GPRS network is indicated by a parameter in system information messages transmitted within a cell. The system information messages dictates a MS where to listen for paging messages and how to signal towards the network. The network operation mode represents the capabilities of the GPRS network. In a NOM1 network, a MS can receive pages from a circuit switched domain (voice call) when engaged in a data call. The MS can suspend the data call or take both simultaneously, depending on the ability of the MS. In a NOM2 network, a MS may not received pages from a circuit switched domain when engaged in a data call, since the MS is receiving data and is not listening to a paging channel. In a NOM3 network, a MS can monitor pages for a circuit switched network while received data and vice versa.

The IP multimedia network **638** was introduced with 3GPP Release 5, and includes an IP multimedia subsystem (IMS) **640** to provide rich multimedia services to end users. A representative set of the network entities within the IMS **640** are a call/session control function (CSCF), a media gateway control function (MGCF) **646**, a media gateway (MGW) **648**, and a master subscriber database, called a home subscriber server (HSS) **650**. The HSS **650** may be common to the GSM network **601**, the GPRS network **630** as well as the IP multimedia network **638**.

The IP multimedia system **640** is built around the call/session control function, of which there are three types: an interrogating CSCF (I-CSCF) **643**, a proxy CSCF (P-CSCF) **642**, and a serving CSCF (S-CSCF) **644**. The P-CSCF **642** is the MS's first point of contact with the IMS **640**. The P-CSCF **642** forwards session initiation protocol (SIP) messages received from the MS to an SIP server in a home network (and vice versa) of the MS. The P-CSCF **642** may also modify an

outgoing request according to a set of rules defined by the network operator (for example, address analysis and potential modification).

The I-CSCF **643**, forms an entrance to a home network and hides the inner topology of the home network from other networks and provides flexibility for selecting an S-CSCF. The I-CSCF **643** may contact a subscriber location function (SLF) **645** to determine which HSS **650** to use for the particular subscriber, if multiple HSS's **650** are present. The S-CSCF **644** performs the session control services for the MS **602**. This includes routing originating sessions to external networks and routing terminating sessions to visited networks. The S-CSCF **644** also decides whether an application server (AS) **652** is required to receive information on an incoming SIP session request to ensure appropriate service handling. This decision is based on information received from the HSS **650** (or other sources, such as an application server **652**). The AS **652** also communicates to a location server **656** (e.g., a Gateway Mobile Location Center (GMLC)) that provides a position (e.g., latitude/longitude coordinates) of the MS **602**.

The HSS **650** contains a subscriber profile and keeps track of which core network node is currently handling the subscriber. It also supports subscriber authentication and authorization functions (AAA). In networks with more than one HSS **650**, a subscriber location function provides information on the HSS **650** that contains the profile of a given subscriber.

The MGCF **646** provides interworking functionality between SIP session control signaling from the IMS **640** and ISUP/BICC call control signaling from the external GSTN networks (not shown). It also controls the media gateway (MGW) **648** that provides user-plane interworking functionality (e.g., converting between AMR- and PCM-coded voice). The MGW **648** also communicates with other IP multimedia networks **654**.

Push to Talk over Cellular (PoC) capable mobile phones register with the wireless network when the phones are in a predefined area (e.g., job site, etc.). When the mobile phones leave the area, they register with the network in their new location as being outside the predefined area. This registration, however, does not indicate the actual physical location of the mobile phones outside the pre-defined area.

While example embodiments of providing media via a communications device have been described in connection with various computing devices/processor, the underlying concepts can be applied to any computing device, processor, or system capable of providing and/or receiving usage information pertaining to usage of a mobile wireless communications device. The various techniques described herein can be implemented in connection with hardware or software or, where appropriate, with a combination of both. Thus, the methods and apparatuses for providing media via a communications device, or certain aspects or portions thereof, can take the form of program code (i.e., instructions) embodied in tangible storage media, such as floppy diskettes, CD-ROMs, hard drives, or any other machine-readable storage medium, wherein, when the program code is loaded into and executed by a machine, such as a computer, the machine becomes an apparatus for providing and/or receiving media via a communications device. In the case of program code execution on programmable computers, the computing device will generally include a processor, a storage medium readable by the processor (including volatile and non-volatile memory and/or storage elements), at least one input device, and at least one output device. The program(s) can be implemented in assem-

11

bly or machine language, if desired. The language can be a compiled or interpreted language, and combined with hardware implementations.

The methods and apparatuses for providing media via a communications device also can be practiced via communications embodied in the form of program code that is transmitted over some transmission medium, such as over electrical wiring or cabling, through fiber optics, or via any other form of transmission, wherein, when the program code is received and loaded into and executed by a machine, such as an EPROM, a gate array, a programmable logic device (PLD), a client computer, or the like, the machine becomes an apparatus for the utilization of on-demand spam reporting. When implemented on a general-purpose processor, the program code combines with the processor to provide a unique apparatus that operates to invoke the functionality of providing media via a communications device. Additionally, any storage techniques used in connection with the utilization of providing media via a communications device can invariably be a combination of hardware and software.

While providing media via a communications device has been described in connection with the various embodiments of the various figures, it is to be understood that other similar embodiments can be used or modifications and additions can be made to the described embodiment for performing the same functions of providing media via a communications device without deviating therefrom. For example, one skilled in the art will recognize that providing media via a communications device as described in the present application may apply to any environment, whether wired or wireless, and may be applied to any number of such devices connected via a communications network and interacting across the network. Therefore, providing media via a communications device should not be limited to any single embodiment, but rather should be construed in breadth and scope in accordance with the appended claims.

What is claimed:

1. A method for providing media via a communications device, the method comprising:

determining, by the communications device, without querying a user of the communications device, a content of a message; and

providing the message in accordance with the content, wherein:

when it is determined that the content comprises text only and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, providing the message via a short message service (SMS);

when it is determined that the content comprises media other than text, and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, providing the message via a multimedia message service (MMS).

2. The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising:

determining whether a email address is available or has been entered or selected to provide the message; and

when it is determined that an email address is available or has been entered or selected, providing the message via email.

3. The method in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:

when it is determined that an email address is not available or has not been entered or selected, determining whether multiple delivery options for providing the message are available;

12

when it is determined that multiple delivery options for providing the message are not available, providing the message via an available delivery option;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options are available; determining whether a subscriber associated with the communications device has a preferred delivery option;

when it is determined that the subscriber has a preferred delivery option; providing the message via the preferred delivery option; and

when it is determined that the subscriber does not have a preferred delivery option; providing the message via a delivery option of the multiple delivery options, having a lowest cost associated therewith.

4. The method in accordance with claim 2, further comprising:

when it is determined that an email address is not available or has not been entered or selected, determining whether multiple delivery options for providing the message are available;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options for providing the message are not available, providing the message via an available delivery option;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options are available; determining whether an intended recipient of the message has a presence indication for a delivery option;

when it is determined that the intended recipient has a presence indication for a delivery option; providing the message via the delivery option having the presence indication; and

when it is determined that the intended recipient does not have a presence indication for a delivery option; providing the message via a delivery option of the multiple delivery options having a lowest cost associated therewith.

5. A communications device configured to provide media, the device comprising:

a processing portion configured to determine, without querying a user of the device, a content of a message; and an input/output portion configured to:

provide the message in accordance with the content, wherein:

when it is determined that the content comprises text only and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, provide the message via a short message service (SMS);

when it is determined that the content comprises media other than text and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, provide the message via a multimedia message service (MMS).

6. The device in accordance with claim 5:

the processing portion further configured to determine whether a email address is available or has been entered or selected to provide the message; and

the input/output portion further configured to, when it is determined that an email address is available or has been entered or selected, provide the message via email.

7. The device in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

when it is determined that an email address is not available or has not been entered or selected, the processing portion determines whether multiple delivery options for providing the message are available;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options for providing the message are not available, the input/output portion provides the message via an available delivery option;

13

when it is determined that multiple delivery options are available; the processing portion determines whether a subscriber associated with the communications device has a preferred delivery option;

when it is determined that the subscriber has a preferred delivery option; the input/output portion provides the message via the preferred delivery option; and

when it is determined that the subscriber does not have a preferred delivery option; the input/output portion provides the message via a delivery option of the multiple delivery options, having a lowest cost associated therewith.

8. The device in accordance with claim 6, wherein:

when it is determined that an email address has is not available or not been entered or selected, the processing portion determines whether multiple delivery options for providing the message are available;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options for providing the message are not available, the input/output portion provides the message via an available delivery option;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options are available; the processing portion determines whether an intended recipient of the message has a presence indication for a delivery option;

when it is determined that the intended recipient has a presence indication for a delivery option; the input/output portion provides the message via the delivery option having the presence indication; and

when it is determined that the intended recipient does not have a presence indication for a delivery option; the input/output portion provides the message via a delivery option of the multiple delivery options having a lowest cost associated therewith.

9. The device in accordance with claim 5, wherein the device comprises a mobile wireless communications device.

10. A machine readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed in conjunction with a communications device perform the acts of:

determining, by the communications device, without querying a user of the communications device, a content of a message; and

providing the message in accordance with the content, wherein:

when it is determined that the content comprises text only and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, providing the message via a short message service (SMS);

when it is determined that the content comprises media other than text and a phone number is available or has been entered or selected, providing the message via a multimedia message service (MMS).

11. The medium in accordance with claim 10, the instructions, when executed further for performing the acts of:

14

determining whether a email address is available or has been entered or selected to provide the message; and

when it is determined that an email address is available or has been entered or selected, providing the message via email.

12. The medium in accordance with claim 11, the instructions, when executed further for performing the acts of:

when it is determined that an email address is not available or has not been entered or selected, determining whether multiple delivery options for providing the message are available;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options for providing the message are not available, providing the message via an available delivery option;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options are available; determining whether a subscriber associated with the communications device has a preferred delivery option;

when it is determined that the subscriber has a preferred delivery option; providing the message via the preferred delivery option; and

when it is determined that the subscriber does not have a preferred delivery option; providing the message via a delivery option of the multiple delivery options, having a lowest cost associated therewith.

13. The medium in accordance with claim 11, the instructions, when executed further for performing the acts of:

when it is determined that an email address is not available or has not been entered or selected, determining whether multiple delivery options for providing the message are available;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options for providing the message are not available, providing the message via an available delivery option;

when it is determined that multiple delivery options are available; determining whether an intended recipient of the message has a presence indication for a delivery option;

when it is determined that the intended recipient has a presence indication for a delivery option; providing the message via the delivery option having the presence indication; and

when it is determined that the intended recipient does not have a presence indication for a delivery option; providing the message via a delivery option of the multiple delivery options having a lowest cost associated therewith.

14. The medium in accordance with claim 10, wherein the communications device comprises a mobile wireless communications device.

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